

Washington, DC - Today, Congressman Jim Costa (CA-20), a co-founder of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, announced that the Crime Victims Fund is maintained in the House Appropriations bill. The President's budget proposed a \$1.2 billion rescission of the Fund. Fortunately, the Science, State, Justice and Commerce House Appropriations bill does not include the rescission.

"Over the last several months, I have worked tirelessly to make sure the Crime Victims Fund is protected. This funding provides invaluable services to victims and their families and it is great news that this funding will remain intact," Costa said.

The Fund was enacted to pay for victims' services and compensations. It operates with money collected from criminal offenders, not taxpayers. Once collected, the funding is distributed to victims and organizations that provide victims' services. There are approximately 4,400 agencies that depend upon the victim assistance funds to provide direct services to 3.6 million crime victims a year. The Fund helps provide funding for domestic violence shelters, victims' compensation for court costs, funeral services and medical expenses.

Congressman Costa, along with approximately 100 Members of Congress, urged the President and Appropriations Committee not to rescind the Crime Victims Fund. In addition, Congressman Costa participated in a national press conference on Capitol Hill that drew attention to the Crime Victims Fund.

"The Crime Victims Fund is vital to many communities and organizations that rely on it for victims' services and compensation. In the 20th congressional district, many organizations receive money from the Fund. Kern, Kings and Fresno county probation departments all receive funding. In addition, Clinica Sierra Vista uses the funding to provide health services to victims of crime and Marjaree Mason Center uses the funding to help victims of domestic violence," stated Costa.

"Crime victims have suffered enough and it is important to remember how we can improve their lives and their families' lives. This Fund provides crucial services to victims," concluded Costa.

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